

March 15, 2010
Testimony
H. B. 5489

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleishman and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Barbara Skrebutenas. I have been an educator in the town of Wolcott for 31 years and am currently the immediate past president of the Connecticut Music Educators Association.

I am writing to urge you to support House Bill No. 5489 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM because it contains long overdue education reforms and reflects the research and recommendations of the education experts who served on the State Department of Education's Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Reform. Their CT Plan of Secondary School Reform was formally endorsed by our State Board of Education early last year.

The proposed increase to high school graduation requirements included within will without a doubt give our children a more rigorous education, one that better prepares them for the 21st century workplace.

As you consider such legislation and also its' financial impact on the states' school districts, please work to ensure that first and foremost any such legislation be designed in a way to guarantee that our students will be able to sustain 4 years of study in each of the six core academic areas as defined by the College Board and federal legislation, i.e.: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, and the Fine Arts.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Barbara Skrebutenas
Trumbull, CT